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PRINT

SHORT PRAYERS

FOR

EVERY MORNING AND EVENING

IN THE WEEK,

ALSO,

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS,

SUCH AS

PUBLIC MEETINGS, TRAVELING, RETURNING FROM A JOURNEY, IN SICKNESS, IN TROUBLE, AND IN DEATH.

And if my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land.

Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attend unto the prayer that is made in this place.—2 Chronicles, vii, 14, 15.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.—Isaiah, lv, 6.

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PRAYERS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and merciful Father, we bless and praise thy holy Name, that thou hast safely brought us to the beginning of this, thy holy day; give us grace to observe it in a becoming manner. After Thou, Lord, hadst made the heavens and the earth, thou didst rest on the seventh day from all thy works, and commanded us, thy creatures, to set apart a seventh portion of our time to thy more peculiar service: help us, we humbly beseech thee, to obey this, thy Commandment, by sanctifying this day to thy honour. We thank thee that thou hast been pleased to require us to love and serve thee: because we know that in thy favour only is life; and we bless thee that thou

causest us to rest from our worldly callings this day, that we may enjoy more favorable opportunities for private family and public prayer; for hearing and reading thy holy word, for meditation, and for serious conversation with each other.

O Lord, may we desire to begin the day and the week with Thee. Let a solemn sense of Thy presence be upon our minds, and while we offer our supplications, in the Name of our only Mediator the Lord Jesus Christ, comfort our hearts by the assurance that Thou art nigh unto all them that call upon thee; and though we cannot see thee with our bodily eyes, enable us to believe that the prayers which we offer up unto thee, shall be heard and answered.

We are indeed, Almighty Father, unworthy to be called thy children, because we have in numberless instances sinned against thee. Glory be to thy Name, that thou hast given thy dear Son Jesus Christ to die for sinners: for we acknowledge that we must otherwise have perished everlastingly. Thy wrath might justly have consumed us in a moment, and have sent us down to hell. But thou hast had mercy on us, and hast made known to us, by thy word, how we may be saved. O Lord, help us to ask this day, with real anxiety of mind, as persons who are sensible of the value of their souls, " What must we do to be saved ?"

We thank thee, O Lord, for the opportunities which we are invited to enjoy this day, of offering up our prayers and praises publicly in thy house, and of hearing those blessed truths, the knowledge of which is essential to the salvation of our souls. O give us grace diligently to attend to thy word. Enable us to understand it, and make us anxious to improve by it, that the sermons which we hear may not rise up in judgment against us at the last day. Bless, O gracious God, the Ministers of thy Gospel, especially our own, who show unto us the way of salvation. Do thou teach them, that they may be able to teach us. O Lord, may thy word this day awaken our consciences, that we may see more evil in the nature of sin, more danger from the guilt of it, and be more earnest to secure an interest in Christ, the only Saviour from it. The mercies and blessings we ask for ourselves we ask also for our relations and friends, and all that is near and dear to us. May our neighbours and acquaintances be also stirred up to a concern for their never-dying souls; and may thy grace be set forth in saving us and them from the wrath to come, which we confess we have deserved.

We pray, O Lord, to be kept this day from all worldly thoughts and words; and may thy spirit suggest such things to our minds as are suitable to this holy part of our time. Guard us from all sin, danger and evil. O may we keep

thy Sabbath in a becoming manner, and love it as the best day of the seven, because it is a season dedicated to Thy service, Holy unto the Lord. Preserve us while in thy house from a stupid and a wandering frame; give us the spirit of prayer and of supplication, that we may worship thee in spirit and in truth. Strengthen our memories to retain what we hear, and make this day a time of real benefit to our souls, for which we may have reason to bless thee to all eternity. We are ignorant, do thou instruct us. We are wicked, do thou convert us. We are guilty, do thou pardon us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, we ascribe all honour, glory and praise, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

We thank thee, most merciful Father, for the blessings we have received from thee this day. We thank thee for the opportunities afforded to us of offering up our prayers and praises publicly in thy house. We bless thee for food and raiment, and all other blessings of this life. We humble ourselves before thee, and acknowledge our unworthiness of these blessings; but we adore thee chiefly for thy love made known to us by the Gospel of thy dear Son, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. O, how wonderful it is that to us, miserable sinners, should be preached the forgiveness of sins, through the merits and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that we should be invited to partake of it. We have been told, O Lord, of our sinfulness before thee: we beseech thee to make us feel it. May we truly repent and turn unto thee. May the remembrance of our sins be grievous to us, and may the burden of them become intolerable, until we receive an assurance of thy pardon. We have heard of a gracious Saviour who died to put away our sins. Apply this blessed truth to our souls; and may we believe on him, and receive him into our hearts as the hope of glory. As we know that we cannot rightly understand what we have heard, nor practise it, without thy grace, O Lord,

send to us thy Holy Spirit, according to thy merciful promises, that thy truth may take fast hold of our conscience, and be the means of bringing us to eternal life.

O Lord, give us now, at the close of this holy day, a true sense of the unspeakable value of our precious souls. May we be convinced that a man would be nothing profited who should gain the whole world and lose his own soul. One more precious Sabbath is passed; and we know not that we shall see another. This one may be our last on earth. Before another comes we may be called into eternity. O, how many Sabbaths have we lost. How little has the present been spent as it ought to have been. How cold have been our prayers for thy grace. How insensible our hearts to thy word. And though we have been informed that Christ died to save us, how little have we been affected with that delightful truth. O merciful God, forgive us, and help us this night, before we close our eyes in sleep, to flee to Christ for pardon and salvation; that if we lie down to rise no more, we may sleep in Jesus, and be eternally glorified through him.

We pray thee, if we are permitted to see the light of another day, to grant that the recollection of the religious services of the Sabbath may be fresh on our memories through the week that we have entered upon. When we are tempted to sin, may we remember that it was for sin

our Lord and Saviour suffered on the cross. O may we be resolved in dependance on thy grace to sin no more. May we shun the person and place which have led us to transgress in times past. May we fear to offend thee, more than to lose our lives; may thy love constrain us to please thee in all our words and actions. O may we never be ashamed to acknowledge thee, and live in thy service; and may we renounce everything that is contrary to thy will and word.

Bless every member of this family absent or present, and all that we are in duty bound to pray for; remember them all in mercy, according to their several wants.

Bless thy Church and people, and increase their numbers and piety. Particularly bless thy ministering servants, and grant that they may show by their lives and doctrines that they are the true Ministers of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; and hasten the time when all mankind shall know thee, and be engaged in thy service.

Hear us, O Lord, in these our imperfect petitions. Forgive us all our sins; take us under thy care and protection for the night, and keep us from all danger and evil, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting GOD, our Heavenly Father, we approach thy foot-stool this morning to offer up our thanksgivings for thy merciful care over us the past night. We are again entering on the business of our lawful callings, in which thy Providence has placed us. May we engage in the cares and business of the world this day with a godly fear lest through the temptations to which we are exposed we should dishonour thee by sin, and so bring home with us at night a guilty conscience. O Lord, may this fear of offending thee be kept alive in our hearts all this day. May our employments be sanctified and made comfortable by a sense of Thy presence. Let us remember that "to eat bread in the sweat of our brow" is a part of the curse of thy holy law, and the effect of our sinfulness. May this thought humble us, and make us patient under our labours. May we be truly thankful that we are hitherto preserved from hell, and have a hope, through grace, of getting safe to heaven.

We beseech of thee, gracious Lord, to give us a full conviction of our real situation, that we may seek and obtain true repentance. We acknowledge that we and all men were conceived and born in sin; and what is born of the flesh, and they who are in the flesh, cannot please GOD, but

live in sin, committing many actual transgressions. We know also that our Saviour Christ has said: "No man can enter into the Kingdom of God except he be regenerate, and born anew of water and the Holy Ghost." O Lord, we acknowledge our sinfulness and helplessness before thee. Mercifully look upon us. Wash us and sanctify us with thy Holy Spirit, that we may be delivered from thy wrath, may be received into the Ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally we may be brought to the land of everlasting life, there to be with Thee world without end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts. O make it our earnest desire this day to grow in grace, and in the love and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus. May thy Holy Spirit instruct us while we are at our daily employments, and bring to our remembrance what we yesterday heard. May we be kept from profaneness. May we be preserved from every temptation. May no sinful expression proceed out of our mouths. O may we remember that we are the Lord's servants. May all our conduct be under the direction of his word. May we abhor sin, and fly from it as from the face of a serpent; and may nothing ever induce us to say or do the least thing which our conscience condemns, but may we rather suffer any thing

than wound our blessed Saviour, and grieve his Holy Spirit. Hold thou up our goings in thy path, that our footsteps slip not; and guard us against all the accidents and dangers of this day.

Help us, O Lord, to spend this day as if it were the last we had to spend on earth, for we know not that we shall live to see another. Supply our needful wants, and enable us to make a proper use of all thy blessings. Bless those that are near and dear to us, and all that we are in duty bound to pray for. Show thy mercy and care to the sick and afflicted, to the poor and needy, and grant such other gifts to us as Thou in thy wisdom see fit for each of us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose precious name and comprehensive words we sum up all our wants, saying:

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

We do not presume to come into thy presence, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to lift up our sinful eyes to the throne of thy glory. But it is Thou, O Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore thy grace at this time, that we may appear before thee as creatures in the presence of their Creator, as criminals in the presence of their Judge, as sinners in the presence of their gracious Saviour, and also as children before a kind and indulgent Father. To Thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy and forgiveness, but to us shame and confusion of face. We have sinned, and deserve to die; but, O Lord, pardon us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, for the sake of our Advocate Jesus Christ the Righteous, whose blood cleanseth from all sin.

O Lord, teach us to pray; pour out upon us the spirit of grace and supplication. May thy Holy Spirit help our infirmities, for we know not what to pray for as we ought. May he make intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered. O produce in us desires after thy favour and image so strong that nothing but real experience of thy pardoning mercy and sanctifying grace may satisfy them. May we earnestly

seek thy favor. We know that if we regard iniquity in our hearts, the Lord will not hear us; make us therefore honest in all our prayers, resolutions, and endeavours to mortify sin, and to be cleansed from all ungodliness and worldly lusts.

We look up to Thee this night, O most mighty Lord, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves, beseeching thee to keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul. Thou knowest us to be set in the midst of many and great dangers; and by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always be on our guard to do what is right. Grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations.

May it please thee to give us hearts to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy Commandments; to bless and keep all thy people; to give unto them increase of grace, to hear meekly thy word, to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the spirit. Strengthen such as do stand; comfort and help the weak-hearted; raise up them that fall; and finally beat down Satan under our feet. May it please thee to succour, help and comfort

all that are in danger necessity and tribulation, and to have mercy upon all men.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to give us true repentance, to forgive us all our sins, negligences and ignorances, and to endue us with the grace of thy holy Spirit, that we may amend our lives according to thy holy word. We humbly beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and for the glory of thy Name, turn from us all those evils that we most righteously have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee in holiness of life, to thy honour and glory, through our only Mediator and Advocate Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth, we thank thee for thy care and preservation of us the past night. Enable us to come before thee this morning with grateful and humble hearts. We acknowledge, O Lord, that we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. Having left the good Shepherd, we have wandered into a wilderness of sin and misery, where we are in danger of perishing every moment. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, which are only evil continually. We have offended against thy holy laws, though we know thy laws are holy, just and good; and it grieves us, O Lord, when we remember how we have broken them by thought, word and deed: for we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. We are in our souls full of disease, and ready to perish. But do thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners. Make us to feel the misery of sin; for until we feel in ourselves the misery which our sins have already brought upon us in this world, and exposed us to in the next, we shall not be heartily desirous of thy mercy. Spare us, O Lord, though we deserve thy displeasure. May we honestly

examine ourselves, and confess our faults to thee; for those who confess them with godly sorrow thou hast promised to spare. Oh let not the guilt of our sins thrust us down into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. But, O Lord, give us the grace of true repentance; that mourning over the sins of our hearts and the sins of our lives, we may fly to the cross of Christ as the only refuge for guilty souls.

Thou hast mercifully spared us through another night. If Thou, O good God, hadst not upheld our lives, we should have slept to wake no more. Help us seriously to ask ourselves this morning, whether, if we had died last night, we have any reason from thy Word to conclude that we should have died happily. O how dreadful would it have been to have opened our eyes in hell, to have none around us but devils and lost souls, and have been without hope of ever being delivered from that frightful place of darkness and pain. In this state we should now be, were not Thy mercy great. O Lord, make us more earnest than ever we have been, to save our souls. Help us to pray this morning with all our hearts, that we may receive the blessings we need. And, Oh what an instance of thy goodness will it be, if we, thy poor sinful creatures, are, by the teaching of thy spirit, brought to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and to heaven at last, through his Name.

We thank thee, blessed Lord, for the numberless favors and mercies we have received from thee from time to time, both of a spiritual and temporal nature. Undeserving as we have been, yet thy goodness and mercy has followed us all our days, and we are this day living monuments of thy mercy. O Lord, be pleased to continue thy care over us, and give us grace that our ways may be made so direct that we might keep thy statutes.

Thou hast safely brought us, O heavenly Father, to the beginning of this day: defend us, we beseech thee, in the same by Thy mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy Divine governance, to do always what is righteous in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

We are favored, O Lord, by thy sparing mercy, with another opportunity of meeting together in thy holy presence, and of bending our knees before thy throne of grace, Oh, how greatly are we honored in being permitted to speak to Thee, thou King of Kings! We have no distinguished situation in the present world; but while we have the honor of coming into thy presence, we will not envy our superiors their outward distinctions, which will last but for a short time. In thy favor only is life. It is the contrite heart with which thou hast promised to dwell. O grant to us humble and praying hearts, and we shall be rich indeed in having Thee our friend and portion for ever. If Thou art our Shepherd and we thy sheep, who hear thy voice and follow thee, then we can want nothing. Though we are undeserving of the least of thy mercies, yet thou givest us every thing needful, thou givest us food and raiment, and innumerable blessings. Give us thy grace, O Lord, that we may know, love, and serve thee, and may we be content with whatever else thy wise Providence allots for us, and feel that we are always under thy care.

Every day, heavenly Father, brings with it trials and vexations, all which are the effects of our sins. Trouble is the lot of every man,

because all have sinned. Glory be to Thy Name, that thou despisest not the sighing of a contrite heart, nor the desire of such as are sorrowful. Mercifully assist our prayers that we make before thee, in all our troubles and adversities, whensoever they oppress us: and graciously hear us, that those evils which the craft and subtlety of the devil or man work against us be brought to naught, and by the Providence of Thy goodness they may be dispersed, that we, thy servants, being hurt by no persecution, may evermore give thee thanks, with our lips and in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now, O Lord, we commend our souls and bodies into thy hands this night. Our bodies are wearied with the employments and anxieties of the day, and thou hast appointed the hours of darkness for their refreshment in sleep. We do not wish to go to rest till we have looked up to Thee to take care of us. Our houses may take fire, and we be consumed with them, unless Thy Providence watch over us. We may die without even time to cry for mercy. We therefore commend ourselves to thy merciful protection. We are sinners we know; but thou didst provide a sacrifice upon the cross to save sinners. O Lord, save us, and grant that whenever we are called out of time into eternity, we may die in peace with Thee, through faith in the Redeemer's precious blood. O cleanse our consciences to-night from the guilt of our sins; and

may we lie down on our beds with a well grounded persuasion that if we never awake again on earth, we shall be received into that kingdom prepared by our Lord for those who are saved by his intercession and atonement.

Bless all we are in duty bound to pray for. Bless the poor and needy, and all that are afflicted in mind, body or estate, and all that are suffering in sickness, sorrow or other calamity and grant such relief as their several circumstances require.

Lighten our spiritual darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord, and by thy great mercy defend us all from the perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thy Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

We desire, O merciful Father, to offer unto Thee this morning thankful and grateful acknowledgements for thy care and protection of us during the past night. Help us to come before thee with humble hearts, and to acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins, which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. May we truly repent, and be heartily sorry for our misdoings. May the remembrance of them be grievous to us, the burden of them intolerable. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may hereafter serve and please Thee, in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Thy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thou hast commanded, O Lord, those that are weary and heavy laden with sin and suffering to come unto Thee, and hast promised to refresh them. Let us experience the refreshing influence of Thy grace on our souls this morning. Remember not our offences, which are many and great; neither take thou vengeance on our sins; but spare us, good Lord, spare us, whom Thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever.

Deliver us this day, we beseech thee, from all sin and wickedness, or we shall fall into it; and from our spiritual enemy, who, like a roaring lion, is going about seeking whom he may devour; and from everlasting death, which our iniquities have deserved. O Lord God of our salvation, we beseech thee, by the Redeemer's agony and bloody sweat, by his cross and passion, by his precious death and burial, by his glorious resurrection and ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Ghost, to deliver our sinful souls from the curse of thy law, from the snares of Satan, from the sin that most easily besetteth us, and so, in the end, from everlasting destruction.

Let not our minds be this day so taken up with our wordly business as to forget Thee. But while we are diligent in business, may we also be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. May our souls through this day often rise up to Thee in prayer and praise. Oh, that sin, wherever we discover it, may be hateful to us. May our conscience be enlightened and tender; whatever we do, may we do it as unto the Lord, and not unto men, striving to approve ourselves to him who searcheth our hearts. O Lord, graciously help us to love our neighbours as ourselves; and to do to all others as we would they should do unto us. May we duly honor all that are in authority over us, either as governors, teachers, spiritual pastors or masters. May we hurt nobody by word or deed. Make us true and

just in all our dealings. Grant that we bear no malice or hatred in our hearts. Help us to keep our thoughts fixed on Christ, our tongues from evil speaking, lying and slandering; and may our bodies be the temples of the Holy Ghost. Grant that we may never covet another's goods; but may we learn to do our duty in that state of life into which it hath pleased God to place us. And as we know that we are not able to do these things of ourselves, nor to keep thy commandments, nor to serve thee acceptably, without Thy special grace, therefore we call upon Thee, O Lord, in the words which thou hast taught us to use, saying:

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O BLESSED Lord, our Maker and preserver. Thou gavest us our being at first, and hast mercifully upheld us to this moment. Thou didst create us, and gave us a reasonable soul, that we might believe in thee, fear thee, and love and serve thee with all our strength. We were sent into this world to worship thee, to give thee thanks, to honor thy holy Name and Word, and to serve thee truly all the days of our lives. But, O Lord, we have not done this; we have loved other things more than thee, we have feared other things more than offending thee, we have followed the corrupt inclinations of our own hearts, and forgotten thee, our merciful and gracious Redeemer, the author of all our blessings and the fountain of all our comforts. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners, and incline our hearts to keep thy laws.

We thank thee, O Lord, that there is a mercy seat to which we are invited to come, that we may obtain pardon for the past and grace for the future Enable us to pray earnestly for thy favor and grace, and let us not pray as the hypocrites do, repeating with their lips what they do not feel in their hearts, lest our very prayers should in the last day rise up in judgment against us, and condemn us. May we feel an earnest desire for thy pardoning mercy and sanctifying

grace. Our most secret thoughts are open to Thee, as well as our words and actions. Help us, we beseech thee, seriously to examine ourselves this night; may our sins be brought to remembrance; and may we not suffer them to slip out of our minds till we have a good hope that they are forgiven for Christ's sake. Let us not commit ourselves to rest either with a guilty conscience or a careless heart, but may we lie down trusting to the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and looking to him for the salvation of our souls. Suffer us not, O Lord, to suppose that by bending our knees in prayer we do all that is required of us. May we be taught that prayer is designed to bring our souls near to Thee, O Lord, and to make us like Thee; that we may ask in order to receive, and seek that we may find; and that our prayers are of no use any further than as the means of obtaining thy mercy, of rendering us more serious in preparing for death and eternity, and of teaching us to love thee more, and to serve thee better. Therefore bestow upon us the spirit of prayer, that we may pour out our very hearts before Thee as our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As Thou hast taught us to meet together to offer up our supplications and praises, day by day, grant, we entreat thee, O Lord, that in so doing, though in our imperfect manner, we may become more spiritual, more acquainted with

thy blessed Gospel; that we may love thy ways and ordinances with increasing fervour, hate sin with a more perfect hatred, and become more and more fit for thine eternal kingdom. O make us delight to pray unto Thee, and to praise thy Name, for Thou, Lord, art worthy of all honor. Angels love to sing thy praise; thy servants on earth delight to worship thee. O may we be numbered among them, and love thy service also. Grant this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Again, O Lord, we approach thee, to offer unto thee thanks and praises for thy goodness and mercy in protecting us the past night, and giving us to see the light of another day. Grant that the influence of thy Holy Spirit, and the light of thy countenance, may shine on us this morning.

O Lord, it is the office of thy Holy Spirit to convince sinners of their sins, and to make known to them by means of thy own Word that precious Saviour by whom alone they can be saved; make known to us, we beseech thee, the power and willingness of Christ to save our souls. Teach us that He who died on the cross to make an atonement for us was God as well as man; and that, therefore, there is an infinite virtue in his blood, to cleanse us from all sin. Enable us, to believe that He who gave himself for us cannot be unwilling to receive, to pardon, and to bless us. And help us in the belief of this to come unto Him, that we may find rest unto our souls.

We confess, O Lord, that we have not yielded thee that glory which thou hast made us capable of rendering. We are prone to forget thee, though Thou art never unmindful of us, and to disobey thee, though thy goodness to us is unwearied. For these things, O Lord, for the sinfulness of our nature and of our lives, we desire

to pour out our hearts, and to humble our guilty selves before thee; entreating thee, for the sake of thy dear Son, and of thy mercies in him, to work in us true repentance, and to grant us full and free forgiveness.

Strengthen us, O Lord, with might, by thy Spirit in the inner man; and make us watchful against, and victorious over the corruptions of our hearts, the temptations of Satan, and the sinful cares and allurements of the world; destroy in us every root of bitterness, every plant which thy grace hath not planted. Exterminate every evil habit and rebellious emotion which exalts itself against the knowledge of Thee our God, and of obedience to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Increase and confirm in us more and more thy true knowledge and faith, and fear, and love, and every grace of thy Holy Spirit. Let not one be wanting, let not one be weak; but grant us such manifestations of thy self, and so confirm us in the image of thy holiness, that our lives may be comfortable to ourselves, profitable to others, and honorable to Thee our God.

Grant, O Lord, that whatever may befall us, as to the concerns of this life, we may still be found in the path of duty, fearing God and working righteousness, making it evident to all around us that we have been with Jesus, that we have learned of him, that we are influenced by his Spirit, guided by his example, and are pressing forward to his Kingdom.

Give us such worldy blessings as thou seest needful for us, and enable us to make a proper use of thy gifts.

And now, O Lord God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee, and hast promised that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name, thou wilt grant their requests; fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O MOST Mighty God and Merciful Father, who hast compassion upon all men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made, who wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his sin and be saved, mercifully forgive us our trespasses; receive and comfort us, who are grieved and wearied with the burden of our sins. Thy property is always to have mercy; to Thee only it appertaineth to forgive sins. Spare us therefore, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed; enter not into judgment with thy servants, who are vile earth and miserable sinners: but turn away thine anger from us, and so make hast to help us in this world, that we may ever live with Thee in the world to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And while we are thus confessing our vileness, and begging mercy, we entreat thee also to create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Turn thou us, O good Lord, and so we shall be turned. Enable us to follow the example of our blessed Saviour. Like him, may we be meek and lowly in heart. O may we never cherish anger, wrath or malice in our hearts. Lord, suppress all these evil tempers. May no bitter words proceed out of our mouth. May our constant endeavour in all things be to please Thee, our gracious and merciful Father.

May we think every day, O Lord, of our latter end; and may it be our great object to prepare to meet Thee, our God, when thou comest to judgment. Especially when we are committing ourselves to rest at night, may we remember that we must soon lie down in the grave. We should desire, in thy awful presence, O heart-searching God, to inquire to-night whether we have peace with thee through Jesus Christ our Lord, and whether, if our souls should now be called away, we should find acceptance at thy bar. Thou hast commanded us to examine ourselves whether we be in the true faith, and whether Jesus Christ be in us or not. Oh may our conscience, under the direction of thy Spirit, give a true and honest answer to this question. And if any doubt remain respecting the everlasting welfare of our souls, may we not rest until it is removed.

We bless and thank thy holy Name for all the mercies of this day. We have through thy kind providence escaped many dangers, of which we were not aware, and from which no care of ours could have saved us; may our hearts feel thankfulness while our lips express it. It is Thou who continuest us in health and strength; enable us to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present evil world. Thou feedest and clothest us. O Lord, we adore thy undeserved bounty; and beseech thee to add to these temporal good things the highest bounties of thy

grace in Jesus Christ. Feed our souls with the bread of life, clothe them with the garments of salvation; give us spiritual health and strength, that we may walk in all thy commandments and ordinances blameless. O Lord, receive our prayers, receive our praises, and in the hour of death, O heavenly Father, receive our departing souls, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

We have laid down and slept, most gracious Father, and have again risen to acknowledge that it is Thou only that makest us to dwell in safety. We are bound, O Lord, by every tie of love and gratitude, daily to bow our sinful bodies and souls before thy Divine Majesty. We should be guilty indeed were we to neglect to worship thee. We should then resemble the devil, that proud rebellious spirit who is thine enemy and ours. But though Thy mercy hath taught us to bend our knees before thee, yet, O Lord, we feel how poor is the manner in which we adore thy Name! How little thankfulness we feel for mercies received! How little self abasement for a sinful nature, and numberless acts of transgression, whereby we have offended thee! How faint are our desires to glorify thee this day. Oh, kindle in our hearts more love to thy Name, and help us with this new day to begin a new life. We might have awoke in hell; but we are spared to see another day. Oh, that we may begin and spend it in the faith and love of Thee, our God.

We have lived hitherto in the world to little purpose. We were created, and sent into it to love and serve Thee. But, alas! we have loved other objects more than thee, and have served divers lusts and pleasures instead of thee. We

have lived to ourselves more than to thee, and have sought our happiness in this world, instead of seeking it in thee. In these, and a thousand other things, we are indeed guilty; but we trust that thou hast taught us to see our sinfulness and folly. Forgive us, O Lord, and repair thy holy image in us. Oh, help us more and more to put off the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and to put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Whatever else we want, Lord, deny us not thy grace, but increase it in us more and more; yea, let the graces of thy spirit that accompany salvation so flourish in our souls, that the peace of God which passeth all understanding may dwell in us, and keep our hearts and minds, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Whether we eat or drink, whether we labor or rest from our toil, whether we walk in the way or sit in the house, may we do all things this day to the praise and glory of thy Name; however we are engaged, may the love and presence of our gracious Saviour be uppermost in our minds. Oh, suffer us not unthankfully to forget his goodness to us, but while our hands are employed in our worldly business, may our hearts be mourning for our sins, meditating on the sacrifice that has been offered for us, and melted into love to Him who died for us, and now stands at thy right hand to intercede for us.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the kingdom of thy grace may come with power more and more in our own land, and that thy will may be done in earth as it is in Heaven. Here let thy word have free course, and be glorified. May all who agree in the truth of thy holy Word live in unity and godly love, truly serving Thee in righteousness and holiness. May all orders and degrees of men serve Thee in their several callings, to the discouragement of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of true religion and virtue.

And grant, O heavenly Father, that the kingdoms of this world may soon become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ. May all be taught of God, and know thee from the least to the greatest, and all the kindreds of the nations worship before thee. Mercifully hear these our prayers, and grant us every needful blessing, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and art able to give more than we can either ask or think, pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgive us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and give us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Once more, O Lord, we are permitted to present ourselves before thee; let thy merciful ear be open to our prayers, and that we may obtain our petitions make us to ask such things as shall please thee. We know that we cannot pray aright, but as thy grace influences both our hearts and lips, Oh, give us a hearty desire to pray. May we now seek thy grace as a condemned malefactor would ask for mercy of his judge, and do thou show that mercy to our sinful souls for thy great Name's sake.

Our days and years, O Lord, pass away with the greatest speed, and every one of them brings us nearer to death and eternity. Oh, that we may feel a lively conviction of the vanity of all worldly pursuits, and the necessity as well as the advantage of living by faith on the Son of God, that whenever death overtakes us, it may find us prepared to leave the world to come to Thee. O God, who has prepared for them that

love thee such good things as surpass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love to Thee, that we, loving Thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire. Oh, cause us to lie down this night with our affections set upon things above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God, and when we come to die, may we submit to the cold hand of death with as much satisfaction as we are now about to undress ourselves to sleep in our beds.

O God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, grant unto us that we may love the things that thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; and so, among the sundry and manifold changes in this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found. Suffer us not to be deceived by lying vanities; suffer us not to deceive ourselves by the *form* of religion without the *power* of it upon our hearts and lives. But grant us thy spirit to think and to do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without thee, may, by Thee, be enabled to live according to thy will, not putting our trust in anything that we do (for alas! all our doings are nothing worth,) but in Christ our Lord, who bore our sins, and suffered death to obtain our redemption. May his blessed Name, O Lord, become every day more precious to us. May we always most

thankfully receive thine inestimable benefits, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life.

Thou has promised, most gracious Father, to hear the petitions of them that ask in thy Son's Name; we beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ear to us, that have now made our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we have faithfully asked, according to thy will, may be effectually obtained, to the relief of our necessity, the setting forth of thy glory, and to the preservation of our souls and bodies from all evil, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c

SATURDAY MORNING.

Most gracious Father, we thank thee for thy merciful care of us during the night past, and affording us the privilege of again presenting ourselves before thee in prayer. Thou hast invited all who feel the need of thy grace to come unto Thee; and hast promised that those who come thou wilt in no wise cast out. Thou fillest the hungry with good things, while the rich are sent empty away. Oh, that we may feel that hunger and thirst, after thy pardoning and sanctifying grace, which may at this time bring us to the enjoyment of it. May we long for Thee more than for our daily food; and may we desire nothing so much as to experience thy peace, thy favour, and thy love. We are brought to the beginning of this day, that we may increase in the knowledge of thee, and give thee glory. Oh, grant that this great end of our lives may be fully answered.

We look up unto Thee for guidance, preservation and strength; lead us in the paths of righteousness for thy Name's sake; keep us in the way in which we should go, and guide us with thine eye. Give unto us eternal life, and let us never perish; neither let any one pluck us out of thine hand.

Thou, O God, art a holy God; Christ our Saviour is a holy Saviour; thy Spirit is the holy

Spirit; thy Angels are holy angels, and thy redeemed people are a holy people. O Lord, make us also holy, for without holiness we cannot see thee. May our hearts be separated from sin, and united to thee. May we not only abstain from sin, but really hate it, because it is opposed to thy divine character; whatever is inconsistent with thy will, *that* may we abhor. May we make conscience of our words and thoughts, as well as of our actions. May we desire not so much to *appear* good in the eyes of our fellow creatures as to be so in thy sight. May we labor to approve ourselves to thee, thou heart-searching God. May thy Word be the rule of our whole conduct, and thy glory the end of all our conversation, for we cannot enter into heaven till we are thus made holy.

Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, both our souls and bodies this day, with thy perpetual mercy; and because without thee we cannot but fall, keep us ever, by thy help, from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable for our salvation. May thy grace always go before and follow us, and make us continually to abound in all good works. Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy, that thou, being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things which are eternal. We acknowledge that we can do no good thing without thee. Oh, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee in will and deed.

O Lord, as we are dying sinners, we beseech thee, for the sake of thy dear Son, mercifully to hear our prayers, and to spare us who confess our sins unto thee, that we, whose consciences are accused by sin, by thy merciful pardon, may be absolved. Thousands of poor sinners, O Lord, who have been guilty and vile like ourselves, have found mercy at thy hands; thine ear has not become heavy, that it cannot hear, nor is thine hand shortened that it cannot save. Oh, may we be added to the number of those who shall be monuments of thy grace for evermore.

We have nothing to plead in our own behalf but that Christ died to save sinners. We lie entirely at thy mercy, and have no hope but in the name of that gracious Lord and Saviour who hath taught us to say,

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

At the close of another day, and at the end of another week, we meet together, O Lord, and may our hearts be filled with thankfulness and gratitude for thy goodness in preserving us. Put us in remembrance, O Lord, that days and weeks, as they pass by, bring us nearer to death and eternity. We are now one week nearer to our end than we were at the close of the last. Oh, that it may be found that we are more serious, and in a more awakened state of mind, and thereby become more meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. May we seriously reflect to-night that man, who is born of a woman, hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery; that he cometh up, and is cut down like a flower, that he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay, and that in the midst of life we are in death. Prepare us, O Lord, for that great change, for of whom can we seek for succour but of Thee, O Lord. Thou knowest the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayers, but spare us, good Lord; O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge Eternal, suffer us not at our last hour, from any pains of death, or evil temptation, to fall from thee.

We are favoured once more, O Lord, with the prospect of the returning Sabbath. If we are

spared to see it, grant that it may prove a day of rest, not only from our worldly callings, but from our worldly thoughts and earthly cares. May our minds be prepared by a solemn sense of thy presence, for spending it to thy glory, and our own profit. May we awake in the morning with a devout sense of thy great goodness, may we rise to pray to and to praise Thee, and as our Redeemer on that day arose from the dead, may we arise in holy desires to the place of his heavenly abode, and join with his servants above in showing forth the glory of his Name. O Lord, suffer not the Sabbath that is coming to be spent in any way contrary to thy holy will, but may our souls be thereby preparing for an eternal Sabbath, and may we begin to join the employments and happiness of the future world while we remain in this. Heavenly Father, tune our hearts to sing thy praise.

We desire most thankfully to acknowledge thine undeserved goodness in bringing us safely to the close of another week, and for the mercies thou hast bestowed upon us during the course of it. We pray thee, O Lord, to continue to us thy favor and thy Fatherly protection this night. And as we go to rest after the labors and anxieties of the day, so help us daily to do thy work upon earth, that at the close of life we may enter that rest which remaineth for thy people.

Remember with the favour that thou bearest to thy people all our absent friends and relations,

and all we feel in duty bound to pray for. Be thou a friend to them, and may they stand in a covenant relation to thee, make them and us such as thou wouldst have us to be, and such as thou wilt accept in Christ Jesus here to thy gracious favour, and hereafter to thy glorious kingdom.

Comfort all who want the comforts we enjoy, and grant suitable supplies of mercy, both spiritual and temporal, to all who are suffering affliction, wheresover they are, and howsoever tried, either in mind or body, or circumstances.

Hear us, O merciful Father, in these our prayers in behalf of ourselves and others, and grant us every needful blessing. Above all, hear the Son of thy love, the lover of our souls, who, we trust, intercedes for us at thy right hand. To him, with thyself, and the blessed spirit, enable us to ascribe everlasting praise and glory. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS

WHICH MAY BE USED WITH ANY OF THE FOREGOING.

A PRAYER FOR AN ABSENT FRIEND.

We would desire to remember before Thee, merciful Lord, the absent member of this family, and to entreat thy good care and protection of (him *or* her) while away from us. May thy good Providence guard and shield (him) from accidents and harm. Give (him) grace continually to look up unto Thee for thy blessing and Fatherly protection, and grant (him) a safe return home, with thankfulness and gratitude for thy goodness and mercy. Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

OR THUS.

We humbly commend, O Lord, to thy Fatherly care and protection the absent member of this family. Give (him *or* her) journeying mercies, and guard (him) from all evil and harm. Give (him) grace to look continually to Thee for thy blessing and guidance, and bring (him) safe home, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OR THUS.

We would bear on our hearts before Thee, O Lord, the absent member of this family. Preserve and prosper (him *or* her) in (his) journey, and grant (him) such spiritual and temporal blessings and mercies as thou seest (he) stands in need, and bring (him) safely back, that we may again unite in worshiping Thee, through the meditation of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OR THUS.

Blessed Lord, we humbly beseech Thee to grant thy care and protection to the absent member of this family while on (his) journey. Keep (him) from all danger and sin; may (he) look up to Thee constantly for thy blessing, and receive from Thee counsel and direction in all (his) undertakings; preserve (him) in body and soul, and grant (him) a safe return home, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

THANKSGIVING AFTER A JOURNEY.

We thank Thee, most gracious Father, for thy great goodness and sparing mercy in protecting and bringing back in safety thy servant, who has been travelling a long and dangerous journey. Give us grace to humble ourselves before Thee, and to feel and acknowledge with grateful hearts thy continued kindness towards us. Enable us to love Thee more and serve Thee better, for every mercy and blessing we enjoy is from thy bounty. Pardon, O Lord, whatever thou hast seen wrong in us, and grant us thy blessing, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ANOTHER.

We again meet together, most gracious Father, to thank Thee for thy great goodness and sparing mercies in protecting and bringing in safety to the end of their jonrney thy servants who have been travelling amidst dangers and temptations. Give us grateful and thankful hearts for this additional manifestation of thy goodness and care over us all, both at home and abroad, so that we are brought together again in health and safety to acknowledge that Thou only art our guardian.

Grant us grace, that we may always put our trust and confidence in Thee, and show our love and gratitude, by our obedience, in living according to thy holy will and commandments, and serving Thee truly all our lives. And now, Lord, grant us thy blessing, and continue thy protecting care over us for the time to come, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR A SICK FRIEND.

Look down, O gracious Father, with mercy and compassion upon thy servant, who is at this time afflicted with sickness, and give (him *or* her) patience and resignation to bear this trial with Christian fortitude. Grant (him) grace to look up to Thee continually for help, so that (he) may put (his) whole trust and confidence in thy paternal goodness. May (he) always bear in mind that thou dost not afflict thy creatures with any burden but what the design of thy love sees necessary for their good; and may this dispensation of thy Divine Providence be sanctified to the purification of (his) soul. Pardon and forgive all that thou hast seen wrong; cleanse thy servant from all sin, by the blood of thy dear Son; direct and bless the human means used for (his) recovery, and be graciously pleased to comfort and relieve (him,) and restore (him) soon again to the enjoyment of health and usefulness, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR A FRIEND DANGEROUSLY ILL.

Most merciful Lord God, give us grace to join together in humble and earnest prayer to thy Divine Majesty in behalf of the member of this family, whom thou hast been pleased to afflict with sickness. We acknowledge our utter unworthiness to ask thee for any thing either for ourselves or others, because we are sinful creatures in thy sight. But thy property, O Lord, is always to have mercy; enable us to approach thy footstool with deep humility, in the name of our mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ, and for his sake we beseech thee to look down with tender mercy and compassion upon thy suffering servant, whom we now plead for, and grant such spiritual and bodily relief as in thy wisdom and goodness may be necessary. Human assistance is of no avail without thy blessing. We therefore pray thee to bless the means used for (his) recovery. Give (him) patience and resignation to bear with submission whatever thou art pleased to ordain; knowing that thou art too wise to err, and too good to be unkind, and may we feel that all thy dispensations are intended for good. Grant, Lord, that this visitation may be sanctified by thy blessing, in promoting a truer and more sincere repentance, and increasing our love and faith in the atoning merits of our blessed Redeemer. *Amen.*

IF DEATH SHOULD BE APPREHENDED, (*Continue*)

The issues of life and death are in Thy hands, O Lord If thou art pleased, in thy goodness, to restore health to thy servant, grant us all gratitude and thankfulness, and a greater desire to devote ourselves more and more to thy service; but if in thy all-wise Providence thou shouldst see fit to remove thy servant from this life, O Lord, grant submission to thy divine will, that at this time (his) pardon may be sealed, and that peace and love of God may be given which passeth all understanding, and may (his) spirit appear before thee cleansed and purified from every sin, there to live and adore Thee through all eternity, with those who are already redeemed, through the atoning blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to grant thy servant an evidence of thy great mercy, by the influence of thy holy spirit, giving a comfortable assurance of thy reconciling countenance and a peaceful termination to all earthly affliction.

Hear us, O Lord, in heaven, thy holy place, and grant our imperfect petitions, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ANOTHER PRAYER WHEN SICKNESS IS APPREHENDED TO BE MORTAL.

MERCIFUL God, we beseech thee to comfort the souls of our afflicted friends, and to make all their beds in their sickness. Grant them true repentance for all the sins and transgressions of their past lives, and steadfast faith in thy mercy, through Christ, that their pardon may be sealed in Heaven before they go home, and be no more seen.

Send down thy grace and good Spirit to train them up for thy heavenly kingdom, that the nearer they approach their latter end the better they may be prepared for it. Teach us and them to submit humbly to thy will, and so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

All things are possible unto Thee, most mighty Lord, and if thou speakest the word thy servants may yet be healed. But if thou hast otherwise determined, in thy wise counsels, deliver them from the love of life, and from the fear of death, that whenever they depart they may depart in peace, their eyes having seen thy salvation. Grant this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

ON THE RECOVERY OF A FRIEND OR RELATIVE.

BLESS the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless his holy Name. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all our iniquities, who healeth all our diseases, who redeemeth our life from destruction, who crowneth us with loving kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth our mouth with good things, so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; he will not always chide, neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. Like as a father pitieth his children so the Lord pitieth them that fear him, for he knoweth our frame, and remembereth that we are but dust. As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth, for the wind passeth over it and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more; but the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children.

We give thee humble and grateful thanks for the measure of recovery thou hast vouchsafed to thy servant. Grant us thy blessing and continued protection, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

UPON THE LOSS OF A FRIEND BY DEATH.

Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and just are all thy judgments. We would desire to bow down in submission to the hand that has deprived us of our earthly comforts, and made a breach in our household by death. We know that it is appointed unto men once to die; and that man that is born of a woman is of a few days, and full of trouble.

Give us grace to make a profitable use of this and all thy dispensations. Grant that we may be followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Teach us to use this world as not abusing it, and to enjoy all our temporal good things as lent by thee, to be recalled whenever it seemeth best to thine infinite wisdom.

Our times are in thy hands, O Lord; our life is but a vapour; instruct us so to pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. Sanctify this trial and dispensation to our eternal good; may we be resigned with deep humility to thy will, and in all things depend on thy wise Providence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR A FAMILY UNDER HEAVY AFFLICTION.

O THOU wise and merciful Governor of the world, we have often said, Thy will be done! and now thy will is painful to us; but shall we on that account unsay what we have so often said? God forbid. We come rather to lay ourselves down at thy feet, and to pray for grace that we may be able to make a full and free submission to all thy sacred pleasures. O Lord, thou art just and righteous in all thou doest. We acknowledge in thy presence that we have deserved this, and much more; we acknowledge that it is of thy mercy that we are not consumed, and that any degree of comfort yet remains, O Lord, thou hast taught us to call thee by the tender name of Father; thou condescendest to call thyself our Father, and to speak of correction as the effects of thy love. May we look upon them as tokens of thy parental affection, the marks of our adoption into thy family. Thou knowest what discipline we need; thou seest, O Lord, that folly which there is in the hearts of thy poor, froward and thoughtless children, and knowest what rods and what strokes are needful to drive it away. We would therefore be in subjection to thee, and live. We would bear thy strokes, not merely because we cannot resist them, but because we would wish to love and trust in Thee. We would sweetly acquiesce and rest

in thy will, as well as stoop to it, and say, "Good is the word of the Lord." Yea, Lord, we will praise thee, that thou art thus kindly training us up for thy glory. The cup which our heavenly father puts into our hands, shall we not drink it? By thine assistance and support we will. Only be pleased, O Lord, to stand by us, and assist us, and grant us a favourable look in the midst of our sufferings, and support our souls by thy consolations. However severe the night of affliction may seem, if thou sayest, "Let there be light," there shall be light. May we be more concerned, that our afflictions may be sanctified, than that they should be removed. Number us, O God, among the happy persons whom, while thou chastenest, thou teachest out of thy law. Shew us, we beseech thee, wherefore thou contendest with us; and purify us by the fire that is so painful to us, while we are passing through it. Dost thou not chasten thy children for this very end, that they may be partakers of thy holiness? Grant, Lord, that our souls may be eagerly desirous of this perfection. We are partakers every moment of thy bounty, of thy Gospel, and we hope, in some measure, partakers of the grace of it operating on our hearts. Oh, may it operate more and more, that we may largely partake of thine holiness too, that we may come nearer and nearer in the temper of our minds to thee, O blessed Lord.

Let our souls be melted in the furnace, if we may but thereby be made fit for being delivered into the mould of thy Gospel, and bearing thy bright and amiable image for ever.

Hear us in these our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A SHORT PRAYER FOR THOSE UNDER AFFLICTION.

O Lord, look upon all who are afflicted and distressed, whether in mind, body or estate. Heal thou their infirmities, remove their trials, and in the mean time sanctify to them all thy dispensations. May every pain and every trial lead them and lead us all to prepare more earnestly for that blessed state, when there shall be no more death, and where sorrow and sighing shall for ever flee away.

OR THUS.

Almighty God, who art full of compassion, we most humbly beseech thee of thy great goodness to comfort and succour all who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR ONE GOING ON A JOURNEY.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down upon us thy favor and mercy at this time, and grant thy protecting care over thy servant (*or* servants) who are about to travel on a journey this day. Gracious Lord, grant them every journeying mercy and blessing they may stand in need of; preserve them from accidents and harm, watch over them for their good, and keep them from all evil, danger and sin, and give them grace to look up unto Thee continually for thy blessing and fatherly protection.

Hear us, O Lord, in these our supplications, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

A PRAYER ON THE SEPARATION OF A FAMILY.

O MOST gracious and merciful Lord, give us grace to approach thy footstool in the spirit of prayer and supplication, and may Thy Holy Spirit instruct us, and teach us what to ask for; may we be desirous and willing to cast all our care upon Thee, and to commit all our affairs into thy hands. Sinful and unworthy as we have been, thou hast mercifully spared us, and hast

been always a kind father and friend towards us, and hast given us freely and bountifully innumerable blessings. Yea, far more than we deserve or expected; we may truly say, Thy goodness and mercy has followed us all the days of our lives, and we are the living monuments of thy tender kindness and mercy this day. We know that every good and perfect gift comes from Thee, and we thank thee for the manifold, spiritual, and temporal blessings thou hast bestowed upon us. Thou hast largely supplied us with the means of grace. Thou hast bountifully provided for our food and raiment, and other wants; and we bless Thee for the hope of glory, through the merits and atonement of thy dear Son, our Redeemer. O Lord, fill our hearts with love and thankfulness, for we feel we are ungrateful and unworthy, and undeserving of thy many and great mercies. O Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep thy laws, and to love thee more, and serve thee more faithfully.

Our times are in thy hands, O Lord, and thou knowest best what to do with us. Thou hast promised thou would inform us and teach us in the way wherein we should go, and guide us with thine eye. O Lord, we beseech thee at this time be pleased to do so, and look down upon us, with thy fatherly care; council us, direct us, and comfort us. Hitherto as a family we have been united together in living in one place; but now, in thy providential overruling of our

worldly affairs, thou hast ordered our lot to be cast in different places, and in a measure separated us from each other. We earnestly pray unto thee that this event may be for the good of all; though our dwelling places on earth may be many miles asunder, yet, O Lord, we are at all times and in all places under thy observation and government. O grant us grace to be all of one heart and mind, and united in worshipping and serving Thee as our only Lord and Saviour. Pour out the influence of thy Holy Spirit upon us, and give us that true faith in the sacrifice that has been made by the blood of our Lord, which cleanseth from all sin. Oh, may our souls be washed with that blood, may we be cleansed and purified, and may our approaches to the throne of grace be acceptable, and may our walk be always close with God in the paths of righteousness.

O Lord, we pray thee to be with those that go, and stay with those that stay. Guide, guard and bless all according to our need wherever we are. Above all, may each of us seek those things that belong to our eternal welfare, and may we obtain from thee such measure of temporal prosperity as may be best for our earthly sojourn. May our chief endeavour be to seek "that house not made with hands eternal in the Heavens." Give us the spirit of prayer and supplication, "that the words of our lips and the me-

ditation of our hearts may be always acceptable in thy sight," so that we may worship thee in spirit and in truth. Incline thine ear to hear us when we call upon thee. Watch over us for our good. Let us not be led astray by temptation. Keep us from all evil and sin; and grant unto each of us the continual aid of thy Holy Spirit to help and direct us. May we remember each other in our prayers, and may our supplications be acceptable before the throne of grace. In all our affairs may we do unto others as we would wish to be done by. These mercies and blessings we humbly ask, O Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A FORM OF PRAYER

PRESCRIBED BY THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL ACT, 16 VIC., CAP. 186., FOR THE USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, &c.

OPENING SCHOOL.

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us in the same by thy Almighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Almighty God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, the fountain of all wisdom, enlighten, we beseech thee, our understandings by thy Holy Spirit, and grant that, whilst with all diligence and sincerity we apply ourselves to the attainment of human knowledge, we fail not constantly to strive after that wisdom which maketh wise unto salvation, that so, through thy mercy, we may daily be advanced both in learning and godliness, to the honour and praise of thy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

CLOSING SCHOOL.

Most merciful God, we yield thee our humble and hearty thanks for thy fatherly care and preservation of us this day, and for the progress which thou hast enabled us to make in useful learning. We pray thee to imprint upon our mind whatever good instruction we have received, and to bless them to the advantage of our temporal and eternal welfare; and pardon, we implore thee, all that thou hast seen amiss in our thoughts, words and actions. May thy good Providence still guide and keep us during the approaching interval of rest and relaxation, so that we may be thereby prepared to enter on the duties of the morrow with renewed vigor, both of body and mind; and preserve us, we beseech thee, now and ever, both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

Lighten our darkness we beseech thee, O Lord, and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thine only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

PRAYER

TO BE USED AT ALL RELIGIOUS MEETINGS OR ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF PIOUS OBJECTS.

PREVENT us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our doings, begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy Holy Name, and finally by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O merciful God, who hast made all men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made, nor wouldest the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live, have mercy upon all the unconverted persons of the human family, and take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word, and so fetch them home, blessed Lord, to thy flock, that they may be saved among the remnant of the true Israelites, and be one fold under one shepherd. Prosper, O Lord, the labours of all societies that are formed for the enlargement of the Church of Christ, both at home and abroad. May they be guided, directed and controled by thy Holy Spirit. And bless, in like manner, with thy providential succour, the society in whose cause we are now met, and the undertakings which we have in hand. "Prosper thou

the work of our hands upon us; O prosper thou our handy work," for the sake and through the merits of the same, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, One God, world without end. *Amen.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

A PRAYER ON ENTERING A PLACE OF WORSHIP.

We thank thee, most merciful Lord, for the privilege of being able to come to the place where Thy name is recorded, to the house of prayer and praise. Solemnise our minds and spirits; may our coming here be profitable to us all; pardon our sins, bless thy word to us, and enable us to worship thee, while here, in spirit and in truth, for the sake of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONCLUDING PRAYER.

Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of them that ask in thy Son's Name, we beseech thee mercifully to grant that those things which we have faithfully asked, according to thy will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessities, and to the setting forth of thy glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

BENEDICTIONS.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst us, and remain with us, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

GRACE BEFORE MEAT.

BLESS, O Lord, this food to our use, and us to thy service, for the sake of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

GRACE AFTER MEAT.

WE thank Thee, O Lord, for this provision of thy goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

We thank thee, Lord, for this our food;
But more because of Jesus' blood,—
Let manna to our souls be given,
Sent from the tree of life in heaven.

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